

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 122, wherein:

the verifier ~~is configured to determine~~determines the
authorization based on a verification of a presence of an entirety
5 of a data set corresponding to the protected material.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 122, wherein:

~~the gate is further configured to store~~said storing means
stores the damaged version on a removable media.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 122, wherein:

~~the gate is further configured to~~
~~store~~said storing means stores the damaged version in a
5 temporary storage device, and
~~store~~stores the repaired version in a permanent storage
device.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 422, wherein:

~~the gate comprises:~~

~~a damager that is configured to damage~~damaging means
5 damages a select portion of the protected material to form the
damaged version, and

~~a repairer that is configured to repair~~the repairing
means repairs a corresponding select portion of the damaged version
to form the repaired version.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 5, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

~~the gate is configured to disable the damager~~means for
disabling the damaging means in order to prevent subsequent damage
5 to the protected material, after the verifier determines the
authorization.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 5, wherein

~~the damager includes~~damaging means comprises:

~~a first device that is configured to damage~~for damaging
5 the select portion of the protected material via an exclusive-or
function with a key, and

~~the repairer includes~~repairing means comprises:

a second device ~~that is configured to repair~~for repairing
the select portion of the protected material via an exclusive-or
10 function with the key.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 7, wherein

the key is provided via a random process.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 8, wherein

the key includes a series of random numbers that are
provided via a pseudo-random process based on a key-seed.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 7, wherein

the key is destroyed if the verifier fails to determine
the authorization.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as
claimed in claim 122, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

~~the gate is further configured to~~

~~provide an undamaged version of the protected~~
5 ~~material~~means for rendering the protected material while the
verifier is determining the authorization.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting protected material comprising the steps of:

receiving the protected material;

generating a damaged version of the protected material;

5 determining an authorization to process the protected material, ~~and;~~

storing a ~~the~~ damaged version of the protected material while determining the authorization, ~~;~~ and

10 repairing the damaged version of the protected material to form a repaired version of the protected material after determining the authorization.

13. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12, wherein

5 the determining the authorization step is based on a verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set corresponding to the protected material.

14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12, wherein

the storing the damaged version step includes storing the damaged version on a removable media.

15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12,
wherein

the storing the damaged material-version step includes
storing the damaged version in a temporary storage device, and

5 wherein the method further ~~includes~~ comprises the step of:
storing the repaired version in a permanent storage
device.

16. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12,
~~further including~~ wherein:

said generating steps comprises damaging a select portion
of the protected material to form the damaged version, and wherein

5 said step of repairing the damaged version comprises
repairing a corresponding select portion of the damaged version to
form the repaired version.

17. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 16,
wherein

said step of damaging a select portion of the protected
material includes ~~an~~ performing an exclusive-or ~~of~~ operation on the
5 select portion with a key, and

step of repairing the damaged version includes performing
an exclusive-or ~~of~~ operation on the corresponding select portion
with the key.

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18. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 17,
~~further including wherein said method further comprises the step of:~~
generating the key via a random process.

19. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 18,
wherein

the step of generating the key includes generating a
series of random numbers via a pseudo-random process based on a
5 key-seed.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 17,
~~further including wherein said method further comprises the step of:~~
destroying the key if a failure is reported in determining
the authorization.

21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12,
~~further including wherein said method further comprises the step of:~~
providing an undamaged version of the protected material
for rendering while determining the authorization.

22. (New) An apparatus for storing protected material, said
apparatus comprising:
means for receiving protected material;

means for generating a damaged version of said protected
5 material;

means for storing said damaged version of said protected
material;

a verifier for determining an authorization to process
said protected material; and

10 means for repairing the damaged version of said protected
material in response to said verifier determining the
authorization.